for the advancement and propagation of cultural diversity in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the specific schemes in this regard under implemention;

(c) the details of organisations engaged in this field;

(d) whether talents and cultures facing extinction are being preserved;

(e) if so, the manner in which this is being done;

(f) the programme particularly in Uttar Pradesh for the preservation of cultures and the details of the cooperation being extended by the voluntary organisations in this regard; and

(g) the amoung spent on the protection/upgradation/ propagation of cultural diversity during 1996-97. State-wise and organisation-wise.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The basic objectives of the Department of Culture relate to our efforts to arouse and strengthen the cultural resurgence of the country. The thrust of some of the schemes and programmes has been on dissemination of culture covering manifestations of a vast range of images of human creativity. The Department of Culture seeks to promote and to preserve the myriad features of Indian Culture in its rich diversity. The Department achieves its objectives through a net-work of institutions functioning either as attached and subordinate offices or autonomous bodies created and funded by the Department. Besides the Department administers 14 different schemes for presevation and promotion of culture. These schemes have been detailed in the Department's publication entitled Samarthan, copies of which are already available in the Parliamentary Liberary.

(c) There are a large number of voluntary organisations in the country that are active in the field of culture. The Department of Culure obviously cannot monitor the activities of each and every organisation which are scattered throughout the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Culture stries to achieve this by encouraging eminent institutions and artists by providing them financial assistance.

(f) As mentioned, the Department administers 14 different schemes for the preservation and promotion of culture in the country which includes Uttar Pradesh. The voluntary organisations which are autonomous do not generally depend on the Department of Culture for their efforts. However some voluntary organisations are in receipt of assistance from the Department for specific activities, which fall within the perview of the approved schemes.

(g) The budget provision for the Department of Culture during the year 1996-97 was Rs. 203.23 crores. The Department had provided an amount of Rs. 1801.00 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 689.57 lakhs under Non-Plan for the Promotion and Dissemination of Culture in the country for the year 1996-97. In addition, the following amount were also provided to the following sectors tabled below under Plan and Non-Plan during 1996-97.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sectors	Budget Estimates 1996-97	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1. Archaelogocial Survey India.	1510.00	3725.00
2. Museums	3268.00	1735.00
3. Anthropological Survey of India.	398.00	421.00
4. Archives & Records.	310.00	342.96
5. Institutions/Organisations engaged in Tibetan and Buddhist Studies.	237.00	177.00
6. Libraries	665.00	725.70
7. Akademies & National School of Drama.	935.00	469.00
8. Memorials	210.00	127.50
9. Centenaries and Anniversaries.	–	135.00
10. International Cultural Relations.	–	56.50
11. IGNC for Arts.	2000.00	2.00

Allotment of LPG Connections

277. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued directives specially for allotment of LPG connections in the hilly areas;

(b) if so, the names of the hilly areas of the country selected for connecting with the said facility;

(c) whether the Government propose to allot LPG connections in the hilly areas of Chhota Nagpur Santhal Pargana of Bihar considering them as sub-hilly area;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

In the interest of preservation of forests since the last few years, the Government have been following the policy of according priority in the release of LPG connections to the Hilly areas. In January, 1996, Government directed the oil companies to release LPG connections on demand to the applicants in hilly areas above 4500 ft. altitude, from 1st January, 1996 and in hilly areas falling in altitude between 2000 ft. and 4500 ft., from 1st April, 1996 after liquidating the waiting list. During the year 1996-97, 5.43 lakh LPG connections were released in the hilly areas equal to 23.2% of total release of 23.4 lakh connections in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Sub-hilly areas of Chhota Nagpur Santhal Pargana of Bihar are not covered in the classification of hilly areas.

[English]

Bombay High Reservoir

278. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has been technically incompetent in maintaining the health of the Bombay High Reservoir;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to improve the health of the Reservoir;

(c) whether the irreversible damages has been done by a casual management of the Reservoir;

(d) if so, whether any technical committee has enquired into the matter; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There have been problems in the Bombay High Oil fields due to unpredictable reservoir behaviour. A number of steps have been taken by ONGC to rehabilitate Bombay High. These are :-

(i) Adoption of specialised technologies such as Extended Reach Drilling horizontal and drain hole drilling, infill drilling and side track.

(ii) Repair of wells for controlling of excessive gas and water production by conventional methods.

(iii) Redistribution of water injection for improved conformance.

(iv) The removal and inhibition of scale in the formation.

(v) Augmentation of Water injection for maintenance of reservoir pressure.

(c) and (d) Government had set up a Bombay High Review Committee headed by Shri A.B. Dasgupta to enquire into the management of the Bombay High in view of the increasing gas and oil ratio and decreasing trend in crude oil production. The Committee in its findings had opined that. There is no evidence to indicate that losses in production of exploitable reserves have resulted due to delays in putting up of facilities and implementation of pressure maintenance schemes of ONGC. Another, a Committee has been set up by the Government in November, 1996 to enquire into the reasons for shortfall in production during 1996-97. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

(e) Several of the recommendations of the Bombay High Review Committee such as closure and repair of high GOR wells, increased workover jobs for water shut off thereby improving voidage, compensation, were implemented by ONGC with varying degress of success.

Krishna Valley Projects

279. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether resettlement and rehabilitation of the persons displaced by the Krishna Valley projects has been going on at a snails pace and is nowhere near matching the pace of the 90 large and medium projects;

(b) if so, the number of families displaced;

(c) the progress made so far in resettlement and rehabilitation of the evictees; and

(d) the pace of rehabilitation of evictees compared with those from Narmada Dam and the foreign aid extended to Narmada Dam evictees ?